



SCOUTS DAVE FULLER and Greg Cowan finish up packing their knapsacks Thursday evening as they prepare to leave for the Canadian Scout Jamboree in Prince Edward Island this week. They left Friday.

## Two dogs lost in barn fire

A blaze levelled a barn belonging to Edward Conners of 15 Sideroad and everything in it, including two dogs at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Marion Conners said firemen from Campbellville and Milton arrived quickly to their calls, but the fire started so quickly there was nothing they could do, to save the barn and its contents valued at \$15,000.

Mrs. Conners said the one storey barn was used mostly as a stable but at the time only the two German Shepherds, Rex and Snoopy, both family pets were in it.

In the summertime Mrs. Conners said the horses are kept outside.

"It could have been worse. There could have been other animals inside," she said.

Mrs. Conners said her 14-year-old son Kevin had been riding his bicycle when he noticed the fire in the barn. At the same time another person

had stopped in front of the house to inform them of the fire.

She said her older son called the fire department while her husband and two younger sons went to get the dogs.

Mrs. Conners said the barn was only smoking at the time but when her husband got to the door it burst into flames. They were unable to save the dogs who were in one of the stalls in the barn.

Fire officials have yet to determine the cause of the fire.

Besides the two dogs the Conners lost a farm tractor, riding mower, wheelbarrow, a feeder, harnesses, and other miscellaneous articles in the blaze.

Mrs. Conners added that she was grateful for the help offered by her neighbors during the fire, but because it occurred so quickly there was little they could do.

## Speyside parents meet to keep school staff

Parents took a first step towards heading off a possible staff cut at Speyside School during a meeting in the school's library Monday evening.

A committee was formed to write a brief in favor of keeping six teachers at the school next fall. The brief will be presented to Halton Board of Education.

Monday's meeting was prompted by the announcement in a school newsletter the week before that the school is losing one and a half teachers meeting chairman Isabelle Weaver, R.R. 5, Milton, said.

Mrs. Weaver, Nadine Eaton, R.R. 4, Acton and Pam Sheldon of Fifteen Sideroad called the meeting which 32 people attended, including principal Norm Howell and school trustee Bert Hinton.

Based on the total enrollment of 193, with the exception of a special education class, next year's number will dip to about 150, according to projections, Mr. Howell said.

Speyside school is located on Highway 25 midway between Milton and Acton. The school has grades kindergarten to six.

The decrease in enrollment by 37 children caused the loss of one teacher, Mr. Howell told the group. A half teacher was also lost through the splitting of grades. Split grades is an arrangement where for example some grade two children are with some grade threes; other grade threes are with grade fours; some grade fours are with the grade fives.

According to Mrs. Weaver some parents do not want more than 30 children in a class, some do not like split grades and some do not like both.

The point is the number of groups a teacher can work with, he said.

Groups are defined roughly according to their level of achievement in a task such as reading.

As the number of children increases, the work load for the teacher increases, Mr. Howell said. So what we are

Principal Howell said split classes do not stir anything in him as a teacher. The critical thing to do is carefully cut down the number of groups.

Principal Howell put the possible cut back in staff in context by informing the meeting Halton Board is treating Speyside School like all other schools in the region. He added he has seen decreasing enrolment shutdown classrooms twice before.

"What's happening has happened here before," Mr. Howell said.

Factors influencing the number of children going to Speyside include the opening of St. Joseph's Catholic elementary school at Acton and families moving in the summer. Eight children are confirmed as enrolling in the new separate school, Mr. Howell said.

Mr. Howell also said he felt quite sure if other Board of Education projections show the school has sufficient population that something will be done.

Meeting organizers prepared a petition to be presented to the board. It reads: I do object to the reduction in the number of teachers at Speyside for the coming year, which effectively increases the class size to above 30 pupils and also introduces split grades from grade two to five.

Seventeen signatures were on the hand-written petition before the meeting started. A total of 35, many of them husband and wife, signed by the end of the two-and-a-half-hour meeting.

School trustee Hinton told the gathering their main concern is to keep the school open another year. The administration's pattern is to close small schools, he said.

"You're going out of business because you've no grades seven and eights, which are going to middle schools," Mr. Hinton said.

The trustee gave the parents verbal support and said he would fight with them. He urged them to produce a sound brief to be presented to the board.

Organizers are having a follow-up meeting next week to look at suggestions for beefing up the school's numbers. Some of the suggested solutions included the shifting of the school's boundary one line towards Brookville, bussing nearby children, who go to Milton schools, to Speyside and also revising the pupil-teacher ratio (PTR).

The PTR is the relationship between the number of all the education staff to the number of pupils. Education staff includes non-teachers, such as principals, vice-principals, special teachers like shop and remedial reading plus the regular in-class teachers.

Last year's ratio was 24.5:1 for elementary schools, Mr. Howell said. This year the number is 23.5:1. PTR is set from negotiations between the teachers' federation and the board.

If Speyside has a PTR of 28:1, Mr. Howell said, it is because other schools have higher ratio.

Mrs. Sheldon, one of the meeting's organizers, said the manner of coming up with the PTR is unrealistic. She suggested the group go after keeping the one teacher then fight for a better way of determining PTR.

With taxes to education at 65 cents on the dollar in Halton Hills, it frustrates me no end, that it's up to us to get a solution for the extra teacher, Mrs. Sheldon said.



ELLEN BAKMAN TEACHES Doug Wilson the proper method of using a paddle as part of a water safety program at the recreation department run day care camp at Prospect Park.

## 4-H club studies stomachs

By Heidi Stadler  
The June meeting of the Halton 4-H Junior Dairy Calf Club was held at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Proud.

Jeff Nurse went over the points of a cow, with special attention to the points important when judging a dairy cow. Two classes of dairy cattle were judged, first a class of mature cows and then a class of two-year-olds. Club leaders Jeff Nurse and Doug Wingrove gave the official placings and some of us even agreed with them!

This month's lesson was on the parts and functions of a cow's stomach.

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## Limehouse parent removes children

A Limehouse area resident who finds the "prevailing humanism in the public schools unpalatable" has decided to take his two children out of Limehouse school and send them to Georgetown District Christian School next year.

Art Loveless, R.R. 1 Limehouse, sent copies of a letter he sent to Limehouse principal Ron Beckett, to Chairman Garry Morton and Trustee Bert Hinton, Halton Board of Education, Halton-Burlington MPP Julian Reed, and Education Minister Tom Wells. His letter was received by the board, Thursday.

Mr. Loveless made it clear he isn't blaming the principal or staff of Limehouse school and in fact commends the teachers on an excellent job.

"Our concern centres upon the philosophy of the educational system, and the attitudes and moral values which are a logical consequence of that philosophy," Loveless declared.

He claimed the education system has in an effort to satisfy everyone in society and avoid accepting any religious bias "adopted either consciously or by default, the lowest common denominator which is mere humanism."

Loveless complained the philosophy of humanism places ultimate faith in man and rejects or ignores any

claim to a higher authority, namely God.

He said the Christian School uses the Christian philosophy as a basis for its entire educational program.



TED NESSET of 64 Main St. N. won \$7 in the Family Cleaners contest of guessing how many pennies were in the jar. Ted had to share a prize of \$21 with two other people.

PLAYS JULY 8 to 14

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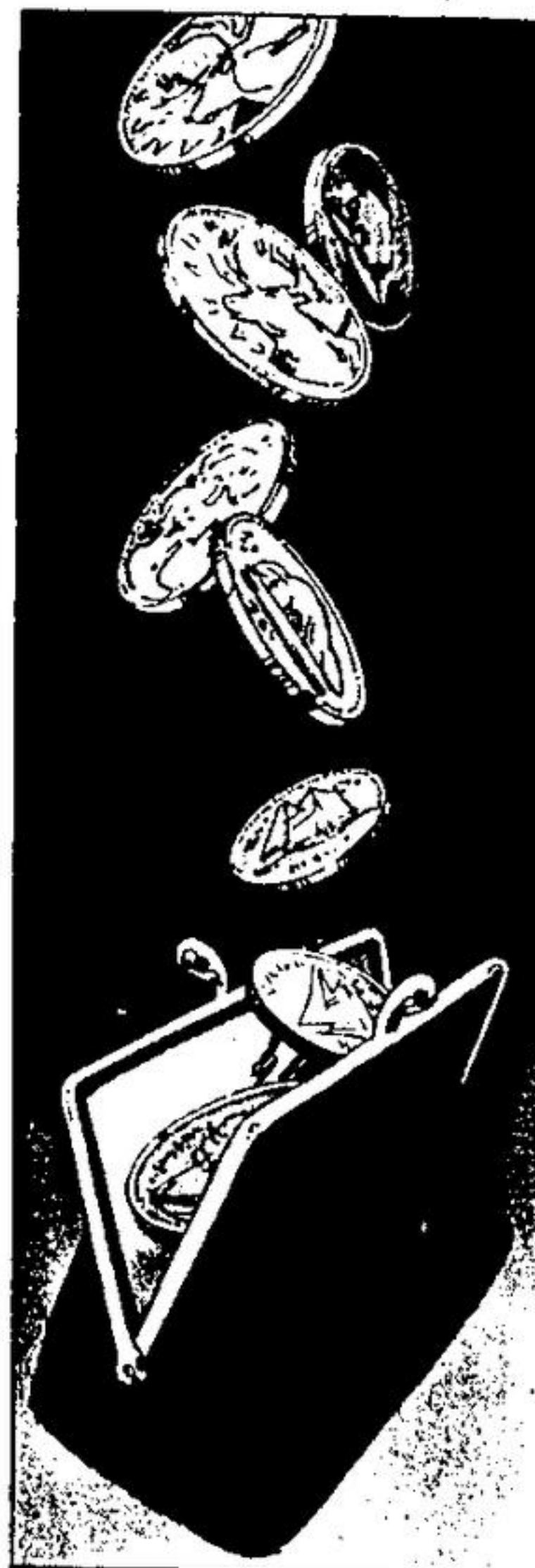
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